

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the instant application based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

In the present application, claims 1, 12, and 24 and new claim 37 has been added. Claims 1, 12, and 24 have been amended to incorporate recitations from previously cancelled claims 7, 19, and 30 which specified that that the positioning support comprises a thumbscrew. Support for these amendments may be found on page 6, lines 27-29. New claim 37 corresponds to a broadened recitation of amended independent claim 1 utilizing broader language. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-36 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-18 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clancy, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,168,427). Claims 24-29, 31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clancy, et al. in view of Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,104,604).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 9-18 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Clancy, et al. Clancy, et al. discloses a keyboard which includes a pawl member (shown by reference numeral 8 in Figs. 5A-8 and by reference numeral 80a in Fig. 9) which permits the keyboard to be tilted from a closed storage/transport orientation to an open tilted use orientation when notches 118 and 120 are engaged by detent member 78. Clancy, et al. further teaches that the pawl member may also include a notch for permitting the keyboard to be tilted to and releasably latched in a single fixed intermediate tilted use position between its closed storage/transport orientation and its open tilted use orientation (See Figs. 5A, 5C, and Col. 8, lines 8-19).

However, Clancy, et al. fails to teach, disclose or suggest a positioning support comprising a thumbscrew for extending and adjusting a slope of a keyboard housing such that the keyboard housing is positioned at a plurality of angles (i.e., a plurality of intermediate use positions) between an open position and a closed position relative to the keyboard housing, as specified in amended independent claims 1 and 12. Furthermore, Clancy, et al. would fail to function as designed with a positioning support comprising a thumbscrew as the detent member 78 (as shown in Fig. 6, for example) would be unable to engage any of the aforementioned positioning supports to tilt the keyboard. Thus, since based on the foregoing, Clancy, et al. fails to teach, disclose or suggest the recitations of amended independent claims 1 and 12, these claims are allowable and the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 and 9-11 depend from amended independent claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 as well as the additional recitations specified therein. Similarly, claims 13-18 and 21-23 depend from amended independent claim 12 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 12 as well as the additional recitations specified therein. Therefore, the rejections of dependent claims 2-6, 9-11, 13-18 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 24-29, 31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clancy, et al. in view of Anderson et al. Amended independent claim 24 specifies novel similar features as amended independent claims 1 and 12 such as a positioning support comprising a thumbscrew for extending and adjusting a slope of a keyboard housing such that the keyboard housing is positioned at a plurality of angles. As discussed above, Clancy, et al. fails to teach, disclose or suggest these features. Anderson, et al., relied on to cure the deficiencies of Clancy, et al., discloses a modular keyboard module (200) for use as a

keyboard in laptop and desktop computers (see FIGS. 1-4). Anderson, et al., however, fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a positioning support comprising a thumbscrew for extending and adjusting a slope of a keyboard housing such that the keyboard housing is positioned at a plurality of angles. Therefore, since neither Clancy, et al. nor Anderson, et al. teaches, discloses, or suggests the features specified in amended independent claim 24, this claim is allowable and the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 24-29 and 33-36 depend from amended independent claim 24 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 24 as well as the additional recitations specified therein. Therefore, the rejections of dependent claims 24-29 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

New Claims

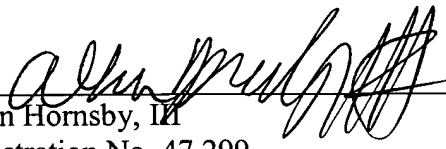
Regarding new claim 37, neither Clancy, et al. nor Anderson, et al. (as discussed above), alone or in combination, teaches, discloses, or suggests a positioning support comprising a thumbscrew for extending and adjusting a slope of a keyboard housing such that the keyboard housing is positioned at a plurality of angles. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 37 is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after

this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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